

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Skin Grafting.** By Leonard Freeman. Quarto, cloth. Pages 129. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Publishers. Price \$1.50.

There is not much good to be said of this book. It contains nothing new; as a compilation it is incomplete, sometimes inaccurate and contains statements of opinion not at all in accord with modern teaching. Numerous references to the earlier literature will make it welcome to those interested in the historical development of the subject. The opportunity for an exposition of the many problems connected with skin grafting—absorbing ones and full of actual interest—has been let pass. L. E.

**Microbes and Toxins.** By Dr. Etienne Burnet. Translated from the French by C. Broquet and W. M. Scott. Science Series, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1912. Price \$2.00.

Burnet's aim in this book of some 300 pages is to bring the bacteriological science from the laboratory and set it before the reading public. Only those who have experienced the difficulty of putting medical science into popular form will appreciate Burnet's work. He reveals a universe of micro-organisms, some beneficent, others mischievous, upon which the science of bacteriology is founded. For the layman the first half of the book will solve many questions, as to just what germs are, their form, their mode of life and ways of invading man. For the student and practitioner no more interesting or more fascinating reading can be found than Burnet's chapters on immunity, anaphylaxis, vaccines and sera and the conquests and still unlimited possibilities of chemotherapy. E. D. D.

**A Treatise on Pellagra for the General Practitioner.** By Edward Jenner Wood, S. B., M. D. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York and London. 1912.

The general practitioner who resorts to this book for his knowledge of pellagra will find it difficult to wade through the mass of summaries, quotations, and translations which form the opening chapters on history and etiology. The book consists essentially of reading notes, unnecessarily complete and presented in many places without a clear indication of the purpose of their introduction. The chapters devoted to description of the disease are enlivened by helpful pictures and by illustrative material from the author's own experience with four hundred cases. On the basis of history and of his American experience, the author considers the maize theory of the causation of pellagra to be untenable. In describing the skin lesions he places great emphasis on their accurate symmetry and he considers this point of great diagnostic importance. While the book has many faults in style and construction, it will nevertheless justify its existence by making available the author's extensive observations on pellagra as it occurs in America. W. A. S.

**Arteriosclerosis.** By Louis M. Warfield, A. B., M. D. Second edition. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1912. Price \$2.50.

The author, addressing himself to the general practitioner, has endeavored to give a "readable authoritative essay on a disease which is especially an outcome of modern civilization." The

parts of the book most likely to accomplish this purpose are the chapters on symptoms, prognosis, and treatment of arteriosclerosis, and on its relation to life insurance, where the author speaks with the force and interest of personal experience. Many of the other chapters do not give the reader this favorable impression. They frankly consist largely of summaries or extracts from the opinions of others, which have been put together without the amount of criticism one would expect in a truly authoritative monograph. In common with too much of the literature which the practitioner is asked to read, words are not economized, and the reader who conscientiously goes over these 200 pages will feel that a small percentage of this space would have sufficed to give him all the important facts. In addition to lack of discrimination and conciseness, this defect is referable to errors of arrangement. For example, one finds discussion of auscultatory phenomena below the blood pressure cuff in three separate places. Again, blood pressure instruments are discussed on page 61 et seq. and a second time beginning on page 124. Historical comments are made in both places; in the first Marey is given credit for devising the first useful blood pressure instrument in 1876, in the second reference is made to V. Basch as having made the first one in 1887. Many other examples of defective editing might be pointed out. The remarks on the physics of blood pressure instruments are nothing short of naive. E. S. K.

**Surgery and Diseases of the Mouth and Jaws.**

By Vilray Papin Blair. Quarto, cloth. Pages 638. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Publishers. Price \$5.00.

The author has combined both the dental and the surgical aspects of the diseases of the mouth and jaws in an unusually good and thorough presentation. Many good illustrations of dental deformity and disease incident to disease of the mouth and jaws, and an explicit and clear text will make the dental part of this treatise especially valuable to the general surgeon, being an aspect of the subject hitherto little considered in surgical text-books. The chapters on fractures of the mandible and on cleft palate and hare-lip are excellent; they present points of view that should be of use in preventing dental errors often made by the general surgeon in treating these conditions. To the dentist the book may be recommended as everywhere embodying sound surgical principles, and as the fruit of a wide surgical experience. Photographs of specimens from London museums, taken especially for this book, descriptions of methods witnessed at foreign hospitals, plates of casts and anatomical dissections evidence the labor and care bestowed on the work, which however is not a mere compilation, but gives plentiful expression to the author's personal opinion—the result of wide experience and of sane and critical judgment. The first few chapters are for the benefit of the dental student and are devoted to general surgery, the remaining ones treat the diseases of the mouth and jaws proper. A book of this kind is rare; as a text-book it is ideal, as a work of reference it may be warmly recommended to both the general and the dental surgeon. L. E.

**Text Book on the Pathogenic Bacteria and Protozoa.** Seventh edition, thoroughly revised. A text book upon the Pathogenic Bacteria and Protozoa. For Students of Medicine and Physicians. By Joseph McFarland, M. D., Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology in the